



Daniel Halden <daniel.halden@lacity.org>

PATH Fernwood Facility Closing

1 message

Dan Halden <daniel.halden@lacity.org>

To: Kerry Morrison <Kerry@hollywoodbid.org>

Tue, Jun 14, 2016 at 3:35 PM

Kerry,

Please see attached. Could you distribute to Hollywood 4WRD?

**Dan Halden**

Hollywood Field Deputy

Office of Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, 13th District

1722 Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90026

(213) 207-3015 | www.cd13.com

Find the Councilmember on:    **Fernwood Letter Community Partners 6.14.16.pdf**

181K

June 14, 2016



340 North Madison Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90004
Tel. (323) 644-2200
Fax (323) 297-1942
www.epath.org

Dear Community Partner,

As you may have heard, PATH's (People Assisting the Homeless) Hollywood Shelter will be ceasing operations as of the end of this month. The Fernwood Avenue building will be put on the market for sale this summer, following successful placement of all of its current occupants into permanent or alternative interim accommodations.

The decision to discontinue this program was an extremely difficult one for PATH. In the past five years, funding for shelter and interim housing has decreased significantly. PATH operates over 500 year-round beds of interim housing throughout the state (an additional 100 beds in the winter), and each of our interim housing sites are seriously under-funded through government support. Additionally, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is no longer prioritizing funding for "Supportive Services Only" grants, including street outreach services, and federal funding for street outreach has been virtually eliminated countywide. As a result of these funding reductions and PATH's shift to focus on permanent housing, the following Hollywood programs will be discontinued at the end of their respective contract period end dates:

- Fernwood Hollywood Shelter contract ends June 30, 2016
- Hollywood Street Outreach contract ends June 30, 2016
- West Hollywood programming ends September 30, 2016

PATH will make every effort to convert the Fernwood Avenue/Hollywood Shelter site into permanent supportive housing (PSH). However, as a requirement of our contract, PATH must first remove the regulatory requirement of having a shelter at the site. We are committed to keeping Fernwood open and to fulfilling our current contracts that carry through June of this year. It is also our commitment to continue to provide services to all levels of programming through each contract period. Work with clients will continue and will be focused on linkages and warm hand-off's to longer term support and housing services that best meet the needs of those we serve.

Like many other non-profit entities involved in our line of work, PATH has become increasingly focused on the Housing First model in addressing homelessness, and is fully focused on permanently ending homelessness for individuals and families by helping them move into their own homes as quickly as possible. During 2015, we successfully placed 1,163 formerly homeless people into permanent housing, a rate of 22 per week. We have strived to maintain a comprehensive approach to the overall problem of homelessness, offering programs that range from street outreach, to intensive case management, to housing placement and retention at scattered sites with and without long term subsidies, to the construction of new permanent supportive housing.

Our housing-focused programs have grown substantially over the past several years, and will continue to be our primary programmatic focus into the future. Our most substantial upcoming project embodies this focus – later this year, we will break ground on the first phase of our PATH Metro Villas project, a renovation and expansion of our Los Angeles headquarters, which will ultimately include 190 units of permanent supportive and affordable housing, as well as health, mental health, employment, and veterans services.

Although we are strong supporters of permanent housing solutions, we recognize that there is still, and most likely will always be, a need for short-term housing. PATH has therefore kept up many of its traditional efforts to provide interim housing despite the overall trend among our various funding entities to deemphasize shelters and decrease dedicated funding to such programs. We will continue to operate 88 beds of low barrier, interim housing at the PATH Metro Villas campus (340 N. Madison), which will be focused on taking individuals identified through the Coordinated Entry System throughout SPA 4, including Hollywood.

While PATH is reducing certain programs, the City and County of Los Angeles have committed historic amounts of funding to address the homelessness crisis in our communities. Much of this funding will begin to be awarded to community based organizations in the next several months, and PATH will be playing an active role in partnering to implement these homelessness initiatives throughout the region. We also look forward to continuing to partner with you in these efforts.

PATH remains dedicated to ending homelessness for individuals, families, and communities, and continues to expand programs and services to those experiencing homelessness at more than 25 locations throughout California. We thank you for your continued support and collaboration with PATH in our mission to help those experiencing homelessness “Make it Home.” If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact our Chief Program Officer, Shannon Legere, at (323)644-2207 or shannonl@epath.org.

Sincerely,

Joel John Roberts
Chief Executive Officer